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WASHINGTON - Retired Army Lt. Col. Bob Rossow of Las Cruces has been named southern New Mexico's first "Veteran of the Month," by U.S. Rep. Harry Teague, D-N.M.

Teague has started a new veteran outreach program that is designed to honor deserving military veterans throughout New Mexico's 2nd Congressional District.

Rossow was nominated for the award by Peter Ossorio of Las Cruces. Rossow served for 37 years as an officer and enlisted soldier, Army and Navy, active duty, reserve, and National Guard.

Rossow's military career started in 1967 when he volunteered to join the Army and was immediately deployed to Vietnam. In combat, Rossow continually exhibited courage and heroism, and earned the Silver Star, Soldier's Medal for non-combat heroism, Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts, the Army Commendation Medal for Valor, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

"Stories like Colonel Rossow's remind me how much our servicemen and women sacrificed to protect our country and our freedoms," Teague said. "He is an incredible man and I am proud to name him as the first Veteran of the Month. I look forward to recognizing a new veteran each month as this program continues."

Rossow was presented Monday with a flag flown over the Capitol in his name.

The Veteran of the Month program is coordinated by Teague's Veterans Advisory Council, which consists of distinguished veterans from southern New Mexico. Each month, a veteran will be recognized for their service overseas and at home. To nominate a veteran, e-mail Maj. Nathan Howard at: nathan.howard@mail.house.gov.